

The Spirituality of Stewardship

Nurturing Our Faith Through Responsible Stewardship

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Diocese of Knoxville

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STEWARDSHIP

SPIRITUALITY



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Stewardship Origin and Characteristics

Stewardship is the responsible management of resources, including time, talents, and the environment.

Stewardship is of “Greek” origin and means to oversee or supervise.

Good stewards are:

- Committed to selfless service

- Believe in sustainability

- Practice inclusiveness

- Are team players

- Give credit to others



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Biblical View of Stewardship

Some may see the word stewardship and assume that stewardship directly equals money. But what is true, biblical stewardship?

It is an outward sign of a person who begins to walk with Jesus as His disciple.

It is a total orientation towards God with grateful hearts for all the many blessings we receive daily – moment by moment.



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Biblical View of Stewardship

And, once we recognize and we receive these blessings, we can't keep this overwhelming gratitude to ourselves.

We simply must share it – to give it away to others.



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Stewardship in Scripture

Scripture Reference: Genesis 1:26-28

"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'"

Scripture Reference: Psalm 24:1

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

Scripture Reference: Colossians 3:23-24

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Jesus Christ you are serving."



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The Parable of the Talents

Scripture Reference: Matthew 25:21

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness.”

Key Message: Jesus teaches us about responsible stewardship and accountability through this parable.



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Stewardship in the New Testament

Scripture Reference: Luke 12:48

"But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."



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Stewardship as a Spiritual Practice

- Stewardship can be a spiritual discipline that deepens our faith and connection with God.
- We help each other get to heaven!
- We begin to understand that how we use our gifts is our gift back to God.



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Living a stewardship lifestyle means:

- Placing our complete trust in God.
- Sharing all of our gifts, especially the one that means the most to us.
- Keeping God first in everything and not placing other “gods” before God.
- Living a more God-centered and less self-centered life.
- Expecting nothing in return and recognizing that no gift is too small to share



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Stewardship: A Practical Spirituality

Stewardship is a way of life that is deeply rooted in the person of Jesus Christ

God has given each of us something to do that no one else on earth can do



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Prayer ... The Foundation of Stewardship

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances, give thanks...”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

- In prayer, we listen for God’s response, this is best done in silence.
- We open our hearts in gratitude so that they overflow with generosity.
- We ask God how He wants us to use our gifts daily.



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Participation ... Responding to God's Call

- Each person has been given unique gifts
- We are called to nurture and develop our gifts and not keep them hidden or buried.
- We are together in a complimentary way as one Body of Christ in our parish.
- We accept and embrace our role in God's plan.



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Stewardship in the Church

- Stewardship is integral to the life of the church.
- The importance of tithing and offerings.
- Scripture Reference: Malachi 3:10

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.'"



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Stewardship in the Church

Stewardship is not a fundraising campaign, it is not dollars, it is not a checking or savings account. It is a way of living out our Faith.

As with all things, there are different avenues, ways, and processes by which we each travel the path of stewardship – no two journeys are the same.

What the local Church strives to do, through the diocesan stewardship office, is to gather these various processes together and then invite the faithful in to support the ministries of the Church here in East Tennessee.



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Stewardship in the Church

Keep in mind, Jesus Christ is with us in every stewardship process or opportunity.

He is not only with us...He is the Ultimate Goal.

We remain faithful to Him in building up the Church and supporting His work in this world.



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Principles of Stewardship

A good steward is one ... who is grateful

A good steward is one ... who is responsible

A good steward is one ... who shares God's gifts out of a sense of love and justice

A good steward is one ... who makes a return to the Lord with increase



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Thank You!

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